

Docket No.: 300.1126

Serial No. 10/661,530

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims and Abstract are amended, variously, to improve form and to respond to various requirements of the Office Action.

No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the claim amendments and amended Abstract are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein, of which claims 1-13 are allowed but wherein objections are raised as to claims 1 and 2.

ITEM 2: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The two Japanese patent publications cited on page 1 of the specification correspond to the two U.S. patent documents, namely, Reference AA: U.S. Patent 6,418,615 and Reference AB: U.S. Publication 2002-0001937 cited in and submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the subject application. The correspondence therebetween was unintentionally omitted from the Information Disclosure Statement, as filed. Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Form PTO-1449 of that Information Disclosure Statement, bearing the Examiner's signature and also his initials adjacent the two citations and which have the effect of the Japanese Patent Publications having been considered.

ITEM 3: OBJECTION TO ABSTRACT

It is submitted that the Abstract submitted hereinabove is in compliance with the requirements as to language and format specified in the Action and, accordingly, approval and entry of same are respectfully requested.

ITEM 6: CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The objections to claims 1 and 2 are submitted to be overcome by the foregoing amended claims 1 and 2 submitted hereinabove. The Examiner's helpful suggestions for corrections to the claims are appreciated and were followed, either directly or indirectly but with the same effect, in the foregoing amended claims.

AMENDMENT OF CLAIM 3

It is submitted that the amendment, changing the dependency of claim 3 from claim 2 to claim 1, raises no issues regarding further consideration or search since claim 1 is allowed and

Docket No.: 300.1126

Serial No. 10/661,530

supports the allowability of claim 3, depending directly therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the indicated allowability of the claims of the present application in the subject *Ex parte Quayle* Action and in light of the foregoing response to the objections of the Action, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: February 17, 2006

By:


H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE OF FAXIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this communication is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 2-17-06

STAAS & HALSEY

By: James P. Staas

Date: 2-17-06